

# John Boozman

United States Senator  
for Arkansas

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [News](#) | [Services](#) | [Contact](#)

## Boozman Bulletin: May 15, 2012



Agriculture is Arkansas's top industry and we're working to protect and maintain a strong, viable agribusiness environment to provide the food and fiber our nation needs while ensuring our farmers and ranchers can thrive. There are measures Congress must include in pending legislation and actions that must be taken by the end of the year to give our agriculture producers some peace of mind. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee there are several things we're working on:

### Farm Bill

Supporting our agriculture community starts with protecting and enhancing the Farm Bill. This legislation is reauthorized every five years to modify funding levels for the various programs. [Work is underway](#) on the next reauthorization. I am working to ensure the next version of the [Farm Bill continues to serve Arkansas's agriculture community](#). I have [concerns about the way the current legislation is written](#), so we are working to make it a more reasonable bill for all crops and commodities before it passes the Senate.

### Death Tax

Our current tax code threatens our farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses. Upon the death of a loved one, heirs of family businesses, farms, and ranches face a tax commonly referred to as the death tax. This makes planning and passing on farms and businesses to the next generation even more difficult. Two years ago Congress passed a two-year death tax extension but it expires at the end of this year. That's why I cosponsored the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act, legislation introduced by Senator John Thune (R-SD) that

would abolish the death tax once and for all. [Repealing this unnecessary tax](#) will allow our agriculture producers and small businesses to invest and expand their operations rather than force them to spend that money hiring attorneys and accountants.

### **Department of Labor Rule Withdrawn**

DOL [withdrew its proposal regulating how children could work on family farms](#). The 85-pages of the proposed rule would have gone as far as to strip groups like 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) of the ability to offer agriculture safety training and certification to young Americans, transferring that authority over to the federal government. This is a perfect example of big government interference. I am pleased the Obama Administration has backed off of this misguided policy.

---

## **Quick Takes:**

**Supporting Small Business:** Unemployment is above 8 percent for 38 straight months and a new rule by the National Labor Relations Board will create more uncertainty in the labor market. I disapprove of this rule and [voted to reject it](#) on the Senate floor.

**Encouraging Senate Confirmation:** The Senate recently approved Kris Baker's nomination for U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Watch my speech on the Senate floor [in support of her confirmation](#).

**Helping our veterans:** Rivers of Recovery, a program designed to provide outdoor therapeutic services to our returning veterans expanded to Arkansas. This is a great resource for our veterans. Earlier this spring, we joined the program on the White River. [KTHV came along](#) and talked with us on the river.

**Arkansas teens awarded for volunteerism:** Alexandria Hunter from Arkadelphia and Joseph McCollum from McGehee received the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, honoring their commitment and dedication to helping others, during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. We met with these exceptional teens and encouraged them to keep working to make their communities a better place. [Learn what efforts they've done](#) to earn this honor.

**Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Postal Service:** In 2011, the USPS identified nearly 200 post offices in Arkansas to be studied for closure then imposed a moratorium on closures to allow Congress the opportunity to find a solution that will benefit Arkansans and the USPS. I supported the Senate passed bill that provides [good guidance for the postal service to get back on its feet](#) without cutting the practical access to a post office. The Postal Service has since backed off the plan for widespread closures and announced a plan for shorter hours for many rural post offices.

**Eliminate Wasteful Government Spending:** The General Services Administration (GSA) continues to come under fire as more and more information surfaces about the wasteful spending of taxpayer money. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee heard [testimony from two GSA officials](#) and continues to investigate the agency's abuse of taxpayer dollars.

**Media Round-Up:** We started a May morning early with KARK. You can [watch our interview here](#). If you missed my latest interviews with [KASU in Jonesboro](#), you can check it out in its entirety by following this link.

**Purple Heart:** Senator Pryor and I are continuing our efforts to allow Pvt. William Long and Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula, military recruits attacked outside of a Little Rock recruiting office, to be deemed as killed or injured in a combat zone. This would [make them eligible for the Purple Heart](#). We recently signed onto legislation introduced by Senator Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) that authorizes the award of the Purple Heart to service members killed or wounded in a terrorist attack within the United States.

**Upward Bound Grants:** 17 colleges and universities across the state are set to receive more than \$6 million in grants from Upward Bound to help educate Arkansas students. You can read the list of schools that will benefit from these funds [here](#).

**Arkansas BBQ in National Spotlight:** The James Beard Foundation recognizes some of the best restaurants, chefs, food critics and other food stars in the industry. A Marianna restaurant took home top honors in the "American Classics" category. Congratulations to the [Jones Bar-B-Q Diner](#) and owner [James Jones](#) on this great accomplishment.

